

Case Q Study

**“A Very Seamless
Transition”:
WVIA Upgrades
with Axia® Quasar™
and Livewire® AoIP**





The Client: WVIA

Licensed to Scranton, Pennsylvania, and situated high atop Penobscot Knob, just west of the Poconos, WVIA serves as the anchor signal in a network of five additional stations and ten translators. Together, these stations serve as the voice of public radio for 22 counties across the central and northeastern parts of the state, delivering NPR programming and local news, as well as classical and contemporary music. Chief Engineer Mark Ruddy oversees the station's five impressive studios, set up with consoles for on-air broadcasting and production. He's been with WVIA for nearly two decades, keeping them on the cutting edge of radio's rapidly advancing technology.

“We’ve gone a whole year without any surprises, downtime, or glitches—and it hasn’t woken us up even once during the night!”

Time For An Upgrade

In 2023, Ruddy recognized the need to replace the station's 18-year-old analog and AES equipment and the accompanying bundles of dedicated wiring with an AoIP infrastructure. The new setup needed to integrate seamlessly with their existing gear, including a WideOrbit automation system. Given WVIA's community role as a highly visible public space, the new studio equipment needed to be not only functional but also visually appealing as a featured point on guest tours. With these criteria in mind, Mark set off to find the best fit.



Standards Set The Standard

While researching his options at that year's NAB Show, Ruddy found exactly what he was looking for during a conversation at the Telos Alliance® booth. There are many flavors of proprietary audio-over-IP technology, but Mark understood the advantage of standards-based systems and chose Telos Alliance's Livewire+, which not only pioneered the use of AoIP in broadcasting but also has AES67 compliance for easy integration of third-party equipment.

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By equipping WVIA with Livewire®, the station entered a new era of efficiency and interoperability. His Livewire network seamlessly bridges the station's existing collection of Telos® equipment and Livewire-native satellite receivers with just the click of a CAT-6 cable, freeing them of nearly 100 pounds of copper wiring facility-wide. Analog audio sources were efficiently brought onto the network with



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Telos Alliance xNodes. “Those things are great little devices,” Ruddy says. “You can easily install them anywhere, and you instantly have audio in and out”.

WideOrbit, one of Livewire’s very first partners providing full Livewire integration since 2009, acts as “the brains of the studio,” Mark says, explaining how the automation software manages audio playout, mixing console channel on/off, pre-programmed

switching to satellite programming, and more. The effortless communication between the two even enabled an easy, last-minute upgrade to a Telos VX® Enterprise phone system, providing 10 broadcast-quality VoIP phone lines sharable across four studios.

With the AoIP infrastructure in place, Mark could focus on selecting the right console for their main studio hub, and as it turns out, he didn’t have to look far. The Axia® Quasar XR amazed him with its sleek interface, motorized faders, and programmable illuminated buttons. “Since we are a public station, we wanted a showcase console that would wow visitors when they look through the window,” Ruddy says. Because their glass-enclosed central studio is a highlight on the tour route, the stunning Quasar console proved the perfect showcase piece.



“WVIA News Morning Edition host records content using an Axia DESQ console into Adobe Audition using the Axia Livewire AOIP driver.”

“With Quasar, every detail impresses – and it has the functionality and efficiency to back them up.” Mark also notes that adding Quasar to their Livewire network streamlined and simplified the entire installation and configuration process.

Peace Of Mind In Pennsylvania

Despite being a major technology overhaul, the transition from analog to AoIP was remarkably smooth for both on-air talent and engineers, which Ruddy credits to the network’s straightforward architecture. The decision to trust Telos Alliance with their upgrade completely transformed WVIA’s operations, replacing miles of cabling with CAT-6 connections and enabling instant routing of audio sources anywhere in the building.

Above all, Ruddy and his staff have complete confidence and peace of mind in their AoIP system’s reliability. “It’s been incredibly reliable,” he says. “We’ve gone a whole year without any surprises, downtime, or glitches, and it hasn’t woken us up even once during the night!” And when it comes down to it, that’s the most glowing recommendation any engineer can give.



TelosAlliance.com/Quasar